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FIGHTING THE "BIG FOUR."

Minnesota is to try the experiment of shutting out Chicago and Kansas City dressed beef by the enactment of a law providing for the inspection of beef "on the hoof," the effect of which, of course, is to prohibit the sale of meat not killed and dressed within the state limits. Some time ago the legislative assembly of New Mexico enacted a similar law, but the attorney general, as soon as it was brought to his attention, decided that it was in conflict with that provision of the constitution that forbids legislation interfering with commerce between the states. The same rule will undoubtedly apply in the case of Minnesota unless it can be shown that all dressed meats shipped into the state from Illinois, Missouri, Kansas or other states is unfit for food. The Minneapolis Journal of Commerce, in the course of an article on this subject published prior to the passage of the act in question, took the position herein indicated, and stated the issue with considerable force and clearness in the following words:

"In the union of these states unquestionably the commonwealth made their compact with one another for better or for worse. They engaged with one another to accept a common property or adversity, to rise or to fall together. As against any alien state or people they reserved for themselves liberty to restrict or throw open their commercial intercourse. In relation to the outside world they can have free trade, establish a limited intercourse or intercourse at all. Not so with one another. With one another they are as one people, among whom no bars to free intercourse may be erected. No import duty upon Louisiana sugar by the commonwealth of Minnesota may be levied, no tax on Wisconsin's lumber can be assessed by Illinois, no tax can be laid in New York upon the flour made in Minnesota. Free trade is an interstate right and duty. Legally, therefore, there is no protective measure possible between our own state and that of Kansas or Nebraska upon the most prepared in the latter places for our markets."

The only ground upon which a state may exclude the product of any other state is, therefore, the unhealthfulness or hurtfulness of such product. It would be quite within the power of Minnesota to provide for the inspection of dressed meats shipped into the state, or of herds driven or shipped into the state from sections of the country in which contagious diseases are known to exist, but commerce between the states is free, and if the union is to be preserved it must remain so. Other means than the one adopted by the Minnesota legislature must be found for combating the giant dressed beef combine, which is ruining the business of stock raising in the west.

WANTED-A CITY PARK.

The rapid growth of Helena and the large amount of building that is being done here suggest that the time is ripe for the taking of steps to secure to the city a public park or several of them, which would add greatly to the attractiveness of the city. With the large number of public-spirited citizens Helena can boast it would seem as though some among them might be found who would donate to the city for park purposes a square of ground suitable for the use suggested. Nothing that involves so small an outlay would add so much to the beauty of the city, provided the city government would authorize the expenditure of a reasonable sum annually for the improvement and maintenance of the park. The fresh green lawn about the assay office is a pleasant relief to the eye, but it is in no sense public ground. The small grass plots at either end of the court house can by no stretch of the imagination be considered public parks. In fact there is nothing in the city even remotely suggestive of a pleasant resting place, out of the heat and dust of summer, which will soon be upon us. Something should be done towards securing a breathing spot of this character before property within the city limits reaches such a value that donation and purchase will both be out of the question. If no one citizen feels that he can afford the gift, a number might combine, or have an ingenious appeal to the board of directors, even might be in some business than furthering a project that will add so much to the attractiveness of the city in the eyes of visitors and prospective investors.

The New York World, speaking of a certain gentleman who has attained more fame of a certain character within the last fortnight than he achieved as governor of Montana, remarks that "the salary of a governor of a territory is nothing to speak of, but the place affords many opportunities of both profit and pleasure. There are in Montana at the present time several ex-governors who did not gain wealth while they occupied the executive office, or even laid the foundations of wealth during their official terms, and so it must be regarded that the opportunities the gubernatorial office affords are, like chances for pleasure accompanying the position, very much dependent upon the incumbent."

In building sidewalks hereafter it would be well for the city authorities to abandon the plan which seems to have governed in the past of making merely temporary improvements, and where boards are to be used substitute two-inch plank properly nailed to substantial scantling, instead of the one-inch lumber that is at present tacked upon

trail strips of wood laid along the street. Helena is too great a city to be served in the slipshod manner that has characterized most of the public work thus far. Let the sidewalk and other public works be built to last.

ROBERT P. PORTER, who has been appointed superintendent of the census bureau, was a subordinate of Commissioner Walker in the taking of the census in 1880. He possesses great ability as a statistician, especially in the cause of protection, to which he has lent himself untiringly for the last eight or ten years. It is to be hoped that Mr. Porter is to superintend the taking of the census of 1890 he will be able to divert himself of the trait he has shown of coloring his facts to suit his theories.

COL. ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD, the religious editor of the New York Mail and Express (which some of its irreverent contemporaries occasionally allude to as the Mail and Express) announces that "we will not take any office, either at home or abroad." The fate of Mr. Halstead can surely not have influenced the color of this self-renunciation, he at least was never guilty of criticizing any act of the republicans in the senate or out of it. His politics and his scripture he takes straight.

At a dinner he gave to the cabinet and republican members of the supreme court, last week, the Chinese minister explained to one of his guests that he understood English because he had been in England "Eight hours, plenty too much," he added, with discrimination not to have been expected in a heathen, but wisely because of the well known Anglophobia that possesses the American premier, who was within ear-shot.

The arrival in port of the passenger and crew of the disabled steamer landmark will be welcome news all over the civilized world. The drowning of more than seven hundred people, which the discovery of the abandoned vessel seemed to indicate, was a calamity not to be lightly passed over.

THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY.

A Circular in Reply to the Communication from "Citizen."

HELENA, April 22.—[Editorial.]—My attention has just been called to a communication in your issue of yesterday morning bearing the above title and signed "Citizen," which might be a little more serious if it were not so evidently out of harmony with your editorial in the same issue; but as it is, it seems to justify a brief reply to a few of our citizens be unfavorably affected in their understanding of this important matter.

In the first place "Citizen" is entirely mistaken in the statement that the matter was "left to ministers." Whatever may be true of the "business ability" of those who have contributed so largely to the success of similar institutions, for as the records will show, one-half of the members of this board of trustees, and those who were largely influential in determining this location, are not ministers, but professional and business men of recognized ability. As to the desirability of the location selected, it is probable that the board, in its careful deliberation, had some rays of light that have not dawned upon the mind of "citizen," and I believe that, with this added light, would come to his consciousness a possibility of escape from every difficulty of distance and lack of easy communication that now seems as much to trouble him.

If Helena was now full grown, new lines of communication of roads, of telegraph and telephone lines, of a systematic fraud—in short, "voluntarily under false pretenses," by the use of money, the city would still be in the hands of a few individuals, and the wisdom of this selection might be gravely questioned, but if the city is to continue its growth until (as the largest subscriber to this fund said to the writer) "that it comes within its limits in the next five years," it is plainly evident that the complaint of "Citizen" is not worthy of a second thought. "Citizen" says: "Those who have subscribed have done so on condition that the college be located in or near Helena." Then adds, as assumed ignorance of the real location, "Since it is likely to be neither in nor near Helena, no one is bound by his subscription." I wish "Citizen" would be kind enough to tell us what the distance must be in order to be "near Helena," and then tell us how much nearer the site he champions is to Helena than the site which was proffered on the west side, but that offer was withdrawn before any action was taken by the board. The east side location was proffered by a member of the board, and no one was more cordial in the acceptance of the location than he. Indeed, he advocated this location as superior to his own proposal.

When the public is willing to accept the unsolicited statement that the opportunity we have failed to grasp will be accepted by another people, and thus cause this enterprise to languish at the threshold of success, the responsibility will be placed upon the shoulders of those who have accepted the location. It is not our business to make a university in Montana that will be the subject of second to none in all the land, and that is now making a determined and self-sacrificing effort to meet the needs of this growing city concerning the important matter of higher education. Let it also be known, that the Methodist Episcopal church is not tied to Helena in this respect. 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